

August 23rd 2026 21st Sunday Ordinary Time – Year A Matthew 16:13-20

¹⁶⁻¹³When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?”

¹⁴They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

¹⁵“But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”

¹⁶Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

¹⁷Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

➤ **Read and re-read** – out loud and slowly the Gospel.

➤ **Meditate** - on reading as being spoken to you, an experience in your life.

➤ **Pray** - Thanksgiving – Repentance – Petition.

➤ **Action** – Attitude (Call to change / to act /to do).

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In this week's gospel we read of Jesus asking the question "who do people say that the Son of Man is?" He feels the need to clarify where he is - has He established himself? Communicated His message? Been who He is called to be?" Peter his disciple affirms him as 'the Christ', 'the Son of the living God'. Jesus has found someone to whom he can hand over his mission. We hear Jesus confirm Peter as steeped in the Spirit. It is very important that as leaders we see the link between Spirit, Authority and Leadership. "Who do you say that I am". This is possibly the most important question that Jesus puts to us?

In your heart of hearts, how would you answer this question?

Prayer:

Thank You Lord for special people who made us aware that we have allowed others to keep us bound. Now that we are set free no power on earth can bind us again.

Forgive us Lord for the times we have locked ourselves up in small minded rules instead of being ministers of mercy which is what we are called to be.

Help us Lord to share what is deep within us just as the disciples were encouraged to do by Jesus. We know that when we do this it is not merely flesh and blood that is at work in us but You yourself.